7. Pekong Peo
8. Nadaun
9. Chauntra
10. Daramsala
11. Keylong
12. Kaza
13. Kullu
14. Khera
15. Banjaru Tissa
16. Sundernagar
17. Teara
18. Tauni Devi
19. Mohra
20. Nurpur
21. Karsog
22. Ghumarwin
23. Chowki Minar
24. Bakloh
25. Bilaspur
26. Hamirpur.

Tempering of metres by MTNL officials

74. SHRl SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL officials have been apprehended by police for tempering with the metres;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the beneficiaries of this offence are regular international telephone callers; and

(d) if so, what action Government pro pose to take against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A few cases have been detected in Delhi and Bombay, where meter readings were manipulated for the benefit for subscribers and meter wires were found disconnected. Two officials of MTNL, Delhi and five officials of MTNL, Bombay have been apprehended by the CBI and these officials have been placed under suspension.

(c) This will be known only after the CBI complete their investigation.

(d) Action as per law will be taken by the CBI in respect of outsiders and disciplinary action will be taken against the officials of MTNL as per rules.

Privatisation of telephone system in the country

75. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Govern-ment are considering privatization of telephone system in the country;